

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the at least one authorized person is a process engineer.

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein the manufacturing system comprises an electronics assembly system.

27. In a computer-operated system for programming a manufacturing system having a plurality of manufacturing lines, wherein a version of a program is downloaded to the manufacturing system and the program is associated with a version designator, and wherein the program relates to an article of manufacture, the system configured to represent graphically the article of manufacture based on information in the program, a method for managing revisions to the program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to compare a first version of the program associated with a first version designator with a second version of the program associated with a second version designator, the first and second version designators assigned upon release of the respective versions for use on the plurality of manufacturing lines;

retrieving the program versions associated with the first and second version designators;

comparing the program versions to identify a set of differences;

representing the article graphically;

including in the graphical representation of the article a representation of the set of differences, the representation of the set of differences having a visual characteristic that contrasts with the representation of the article.

**28.** The method according to claim 27, wherein the manufacturing system comprises an electronics assembly system.